

Today's News - Tuesday, June 14, 2016

- Kamin ponders "what design can - and can't - do to thwart terrorism," and whether it can or even should be part of the solution: "To ask designers and building owners to install even more protective is to seek solutions in the wrong place."
- Feuerman and Maggi report from "Reporting From the Front" at the Venice Biennale - its "beautiful and intelligent propaganda" that is decidedly not "a wall of fame for the world's archstars."
- Launched at the Biennale, the Time for Impact initiative calls on "creative people from all over the world to pledge their time and collectively boost socially relevant projects."
- A rather British news day: Moore cheers BIG's Serpentine Pavilion, "the most successful pavilion yet - a calculated cocktail of flair, mischief, arrogance and the inventive solving of problems."
- Heathcote picks his 10 favorite Serpentine Pavilions, and "two howlers that prove it's not always the biggest stars who do best."
- Wainwright parses the six shortlisted designs for the Museum of London, from the "eye-catching" and the "ghostly" to the "corporate" - and "one that rings alarm bells."
- BD queries UK practices re: Brexit, and finds many "have no contingency plans in place to deal with the fallout" of leaving the EU.
- Chipperfield fires back at Jenkins "for ridiculing the 280 'luvvies' who signed a letter urging Britain to vote to stay in the EU."
- Gallagher has high hopes for Brush Park, an incredibly "ambitious" residential development in Detroit that "promises to be something entirely new in modern urban development."
- Saffron has a few issues with two "architectural wide-loads" on the Schuylkill waterfront - "their enormous heft should be setting off alarm bells" - they could turn into the "Great Wall of Philadelphia."
- Hawthorne has (mostly) good things to say about the Mia Lehrer/OMA/IDEO design for FAB Park in downtown L.A. - except for "one overwrought element that should be reworked or scrapped altogether."
- Waldie wades deep into L.A.'s history to see how it could shape the city's future.
- Brussat basks in a Sussman/Hollander article that considers biometrics in accessing human response to the built environment: "Science must continue to flush out the truths suppressed by modern architecture. That's what science is for."
- Dickinson, on the other hand, cheers Leo A. Daly's restoration of Roche-Dinkeloo's 1969 New Haven Knights of Columbus building, done "with both a reverence and fealty to design that is exceptional."
- Rybczynski takes a fascinating ramble through the history of concert halls that today are "designed to be stand-alone icons," but they used to be designed as integrated elements of the urban fabric.
- Eyefuls of MAD Architects' curvaceous plans for a housing block in Paris (curvy, indeed!).
- Keskeys considers a new Labor Department regulation that "could have profound implications for interns and young architects - not to mention providing a headache for their employers."
- Call for entries: 2016 Richard Kelly Grant 2016 for works using light in architecture, art, environmental design, and more; must be 35 years or under, studying or working in the U.S., Canada, or Mexico.
- We couldn't resist: Happy 70th Birthday, Donald Trump (we won't be sending a cake).

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What design can - and can't - do to thwart terrorism: The scourge of terrorism increasingly has spread to ordinary places that are neither featured on postcards nor heavily fortified. But how should we safeguard... "soft targets"? Can design be part of the solution? Should it? To ask designers and building owners to install even more protective measures - ones that further limit the freedom of movement and assembly that are cherished features of American life - is to seek solutions in the wrong place. And to grant a victory to the terrorists. By Blair Kamin - Chicago Tribune

Venice Biennale: an exhausting, beautiful attempt to relinquish architecture: ...brings social consciousness in architecture to the forefront...beyond the visual propaganda...(and beautiful and intelligent propaganda it is) one might question where the architecture resides...I leave inspired...and optimistic that we can continue to ask the same questions while challenging them through new paradigms. By William Feuerman -- Alejandro Aravena/Elemental [images]- The Conversation (Australia)

Venice Biennale Applauded for Shifting Focus to World Improvement From 'Starchitects': ...case histories focus more on the actions rather than on the authors...One thing is sure: humans are at the center of the research in architecture...the Biennale...will no longer be a wall of fame for the world's archstars...but a platform to show the social conscience of this art. By Laura Maggi [images]- Artinfo

Time for Impact: ...professionals pledge their time...design missions are collected...works as an architectural time bank and kickstarting tool, promoting urgent challenges...that are in need of design expertise, spatial know-how and budget. Creative people from all over the world are invited to pledge their time and collectively boost socially relevant projects.- Green Magazine (Australia)

Serpentine pavilion and summer houses - Dane's design stacks up well: BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group creates the most successful pavilion yet with his heap of fibreglass boxes, while four new 'summer houses' join in the fun: ...a calculated cocktail of flair, mischief, arrogance and the inventive solving of problems... By Rowan Moore -- Yona Friedman; Kunlé Adeyemi; Barkow Leibinger; Asif Khan [images]- Observer (UK)

Serpentine Pavilions: best and worst: Edwin Heathcote ranks his 10 favourites...and picks out two major blunders ["two howlers"]...that prove it's not always the biggest stars who do best. -- SANAA; Sou Fujimoto; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Toyo Ito; Zaha Hadid; Rem Koolhaas/OMA; Herzog & de Meuron/Ai Weiwei; Oscar Niemeyer; Smiljan Radic; Jean Nouvel; Frank Gehry; Peter Zumthor [images]- Icon (UK)

Museum of London design shortlist: from luxury boutique to history chic: ...which architectural vision should shape its future: the eye-catching one, the ghostly one, the corporate one ... or the one that rings alarm bells? By Oliver Wainwright -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group/Hawkins Brown/Donald Insall/Gehl Architects; Caruso St John/Alan Baxter Associates; Diener & Diener Architekten/Sergison Bates Architects/East Architecture/Graphic Thought Facility; Lacaton & Vassal Architectes/Pernilla Ohrstedt Studio 2; Stanton Williams/Asif Khan/Julian Harrap/J&L Gibbons/Plan A; Studio Milou Architecture/RL & Associates/Axis Architect/Alan Baxter Associates [images]- Guardian (UK)

UK practices admit they are unprepared for Brexit: BD investigation finds many leading practices have no contingency plans in place to deal with the fallout...a Brexit could be a "disaster" for London practices.- BD/Building Design (UK)

David Chipperfield hits back at Simon Jenkins over 'luvvie' jibe: Architect makes passionate defence of Europe as a 'market in ideas as well as materials'...hit back...for ridiculing the 280 "luvvies" who signed a letter urging Britain to vote to stay in the EU.- BD/Building Design (UK)

Gilbert's Brush Park plan offers bold new look in Detroit: Not since the Lafayette Park project a half-century ago has Detroit seen a residential development as ambitious...so far this project promises to be what...Maurice Cox calls something entirely new in modern urban development. By John Gallagher -- Hamilton Anderson Associates: Christian Hurtienne Architects:

Check out the big backsides on these buildings: Each has a different architect...But their massing and design strategies are uncannily similar...Because these architectural wide-loads will face the Schuylkill waterfront...their enormous heft should be setting off alarm bells...The challenge for Ridge Flats and 2402 Market will be to keep their long facades from turning into the Great Wall of Philadelphia. By Inga Saffron -- Varenhorst/Gensler; Onion Flats/Morris Adjmi Architecture [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Design team led by Mia Lehrer picked for new downtown L.A. park: ...2-acre park...adjacent to Grand Park...FAB Park joins nearby Pershing Square on a list of major open spaces being remade as downtown Los Angeles becomes a residential center and invests more heavily in its parks and public spaces...One overwrought element that should be reworked or scrapped altogether... By Christopher Hawthorne -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture/OMA; IDEO; Agence Ter; Rios Clementi Hale Studios [images]- Los Angeles Times

A City in Opposition: How History Shapes Tomorrow's Los Angeles: Anglo Los Angeles established itself as a city...in opposition to Mexican identity, to colonial history, to other cultures and languages, and to existing urban centers. Opposition exploited the landscape...The growth machine was running out of cheap dirt to build on...Preservation is at the core of the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative, according to...Christopher Hawthorne, who opposes the measure. But, he asks, what's to be preserved? By D.J. Waldie [images]- KCET.org (California)

Our buildings, our selves: Ann Sussman with Justin Hollander of Cognitive Architecture, has an article in Planning magazine, "Planning for the Subconscious," that suggests that the millennia-long evolution of how we shape buildings and places placates the inner urges of our minds and bodies (and hearts). Or at least it used to. Modern architecture ended that...Science must continue to flush out the truths suppressed by modern architecture. That's what science is for. By David Brussat-Architecture Here and There

New Haven Knights of Columbus building - an icon reclad: ...with both a reverence and fealty to design that is exceptional...Sometimes small things mean everything...tower embodies the undeniable architectural hierarchy that makes Modernist architecture unique in our culture's evolution. By Duo Dickinson -- Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates (1969); Leo A Daly- New Haven Register (Connecticut)

The Concert Hall, Reimagined: Performance spaces today are designed to be stand-alone icons, but that's not how we always designed these buildings: Integrating a concert hall into the urban fabric by hiding it goes back to the 19th century...prominent postwar concert halls...set the pattern for future halls: freestanding object buildings surrounded by open space. By Witold Rybczynski -- Jean Nouvel; Jacques Marcel Aubertin/André Granet/Jean-Baptiste Mathon; Thomas Edward Collcutt; George B. Post; William Burnet Tuthill; Dankmar Adler/Louis Sullivan; Whitney Warren/Charles Wetmore; Robert Matthew; Max Abramovitz; Hans Scharoun; LMN Architects; David M. Schwarz [images]- Architect Magazine

MAD Architects unveils Parisian housing block with curvy floors and balconies: ...the firm's first residential project in Europe...Called UNIC...located in the developing Clichy-Batignolles neighbourhood, beside the Martin Luther King Park and Renzo Piano's yet-to-be-completed courthouse. -- Ma Yansong; Biecher Architectes [images]- Dezeen

The End of the All-Nighter? New Overtime Rules Could Transform the Work Ethic of Architects: ...a new regulation issued by the Labor Department...could have profound implications for interns and young architects...not to mention providing a headache for their employers in architectural practice. By Paul Keskeys- Architizer

Call for entries: Richard Kelly Grant 2016 for works using light in architecture, art, education, environmental design, health, fixture design, software design, and theater; open to anyone 35 years or under, studying or working in the art and/or science of illumination, in the U.S., Canada or Mexico; deadline: June 30- Illuminating Engineering Society New York (IESNYC)

Caseyfierro Architects: Anish Kapoor Studio: ...a series of seven studios that vary dramatically in scale and function...each with a distinct atmosphere responding to a material or process. By Nina Tory Henderson [images]

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